

## HOW MAUI HANDLES ATHLETICS

By J. Garcia, Chairman Sports Committee, M. C. F. & R. A.

In attempting to give the readers of Maui News a story on baseball and other athletics for a number of years back, the writer can only depend upon memory for many of the incidents appearing hereafter, as no authentic records have been kept until recently, even the records of the Maui Athletic Association, an organization formed in 1901 having disappeared.

In years gone by, practically the only sport known on the island of Maui was baseball, this being the national game, and one which the writer can remember as far back as his early childhood it is only natural that I shall dwell on that branch of sport more than any other, aside from the fact that it is still the most popular game existing.

Football, basketball, soccer and competitive swimming were hardly ever heard of in the early days except, possibly, in reports of events on the Mainland, although foot races were held on Maui thirty years ago. Tug of war was also had in the early days at the old skating rink, below the Iao river bridge in Wailuku on the road to Waihee.

### Sand Hill Grounds

The first baseball grounds used on this island was called "Kauhea," located on the sand hills near Paukukalo, on the north side of the Iao stream, which grounds are now used for goat pasture. Many thrilling games were held at this spot, and well can the writer remember how people would crowd around the baseball field in gala attire riding their horses or in quaint buggies. The scene was shifted to the sand hills a little below the present Fleming tract, on a straight line between Wailuku and Kahului, and very many games were played there, the writer remembering some old timers playing there. Simultaneously games were also played at Waikapu, on the site of the present reservoir. George Cummings, Billie Cornwell, Charlie Bailey, and a few more of the old timers have played ball not only on the Waikapu grounds but also on the sand hill diamond.

When a visiting team did come to Maui, and in those days it was a very rare occasion (speaking of the period from 1890 to 1900) what a thrill would go through the hearts of those interested in the sport, and one can almost picture himself watching Sam Mahuka (his real name being Sam M. Spencer, now of Hilo) pick out a fly from the outfield, or going to the bat and giving the ball a wallop which would send it such long distances. In those days the name of Sam Mahuka was on the lip of every boy in the Territory as one of the best in the Islands.

### Wells Park Opened

Meantime baseball was being developed rather fast and an occasional contest between Wailuku and Lahaina meant a holiday celebration, as

amusement for the general public was rather limited.

A real good baseball park in Wailuku was furnished when Manager Wells of the Wailuku plantation opened up Wells Park about 1898 or 1899. The park was located in that section of Wailuku through which Central avenue runs, back of the Gibb home, which is now filled with beautiful dwellings. Regular league games were established there, and real teams played ball, some of the games most interesting indeed. I should probably have also mentioned that baseball has been transformed considerably since its early stages, and old timers can still remember the day when the catcher would stand about sixty or seventy feet back of the batter, waiting until the batter had two strikes before putting on his mask to get next to the bat. Many other similar reforms have taken place, but this is merely baseball history and not appropriate.

### League Is Formed

When Wells Park was opened, regular teams were formed and league games played. The Morning Stars, which had an existence of practically fifteen years seemed almost invincible, and there are still two or three baseball players today who were original members of the Morning Star team, notably Bill Bal. George Cummings and Billy Cornwell played for the Waikapu team most of the time, and the competition between these two teams particularly was rather keen.

Another very good sport, who took keen interest in baseball was Wm. S. Mountcastle, who has now passed to the great beyond. He sponsored the Kahului team for very many years, and spared no effort to take the bacon to that point, succeeding in two or three seasons. Some of his players include Fred Swan, the famous shortstop Ayau, Clement the catcher, and others of less prominence. Up country was represented by the Paia-Hanalei team, and in the early stages this also included such players as A. W. Collins, Upton, the wonderful pitcher, Carerira and others. For one or two seasons the Alerts, a baseball team sponsored by L. R. Crook, also played ball, although they did not seem to cut into the winnings very much.

### Partisan Feeling High

These were days of excitement when spectators took sides more to heart than is done nowadays, and when Waikapu team did win a good game from the Morning Stars, it meant a celebration after the game with horses and wagons decorated with brooms, trimmings, cowbells, and everything to attract attention. We now live in a more respectable age, where the winner takes his victory more as a matter of course. After playing at the old Wells Park for five or six years, the County of Maui arranged for an exchange of property, securing the present baseball field,

which, of course, is the best Maui has ever had, until the Fair Grounds at Kahului was developed. Until 1900 there was practically no organization to handle athletics in any manner whatsoever, other than the individual teams themselves.

### Athletic Club Organize

The Maui Athletic Association was formed at that time to conduct regular league games, and among those to whom most credit is due for the encouragement and assistance rendered may be mentioned L. M. Baldwin, who served as president for many years, Dr. John Weddick, D. L. Meyer, George Cummings, James L. Coke and many others. Baseball was conducted under the auspices of this organization for very many years, no other sport being sponsored.

Shortly after the Maui County Fair & Racing Association, of its own accord, asked to be taken in under the wing of the Fair Association, as a branch, for the betterment of sport in general on Maui. This was accepted, Mr. R. A. Wadsworth, then a director of the Maui County Fair & Racing Association, being made chairman of the Athletic Committee, under whose guiding hand all sports were conducted. Mr. Wadsworth appointed committees to handle of different branches of sport, and since that time the committee has enlarged its scope to such an extent that it now embraces every form of athletics. Maui has progressed more in the past five years in the line of sports, and this includes almost every form known, than it has for 25 years previous, and it can be truthfully said that no cleaner competitions are carried on anywhere in the Territory as the committee is built upon a solid foundation for clean sport that nothing can shake.

### Support Assured

In aligning itself with the Maui County Fair & Racing Association, the committee handling sports is able to count upon the assistance and encouragement of all of the plantation managers, business men and population in general. As at present constituted, the chairman of the Sports Committee (having been changed from Athletic Committee) is also a member of the Board of Directors of the parent body. There are fifteen members serving on the Sports Committee, and the organization is divided into sections taking in baseball, football, soccer, basketball, wrestling, swimming, handball, field and track events, publicity, etc.

Baseball and sports on Maui have progressed so, and Maui is so reputed for clean sport, that all of the Islands always cast a longing eye this direction in the hope of being invited to participate in the events of the Valley Isle. Within the last few years, the very best community asset in the Territory, barring none, has been developed at Kahului, the home of the Maui County Fair & Racing Association, and President F. F. Baldwin as well as every member of the Maui County Fair & Racing Association can well point with pride to this plant in the realization that it is the very best community harmonizer that human ingenuity could ever have planned. The Sports Committee and

the Maui Athletic Club of the A. A. U. have access to the grounds and are doing everything within their power to popularize these grounds at Kahului so that the younger generation may have many of the advantages which their forefathers lacked in the matter of sport and athletics on the island of Maui.

The Maui County Fair & Racing Association and its Sports Committee want the co-operation, good will and encouragement of every citizen of

Maui in their undertaking, and as long as there is an ounce of good American blood running through their veins, we feel certain this support will be forthcoming.

One of the best fishing grounds of the Islands is just off Maui, the waters about Molokini.

Maui is practically the only Island of the group that could quickly make itself self supporting in food supply.

Maui leads all the counties in the government support given to child welfare work.

### Dreaming

At a certain Cabinet meeting in the autumn, M. Briand noticed that his colleague, M. Loucheur, was fast asleep, and, as usual, smiling, "Don't wake him," said the Prime Minister, "he is dreaming that the Germans will pay."

## BOOKS

## MAGAZINES

# MAUI BOOK STORE

Always Ready To Meet Your Every Want

Main Street, opposite Post office  
Wailuku, Phone 258

## STATIONERY

## NOVELTIES

# S. C. White Leghorns

TANCRED BRED

Eggs from Hens with pullet year records of 275 eggs or better. In securing your eggs for the next hatching season be sure to look my stock over. Cockerels used out of 300 to 312 egg hens.

LORRIN K. SMITH

MAKAWAO, MAUI

# Alexander & Baldwin

LIMITED

OFFICES:

STANGENWALD BUILDING.....HONOLULU, T. H.  
MEHLHORN BUILDING.....SEATTLE, WASH.  
82 WALL STREET.....NEW YORK, N. Y.  
ALASKA COMMERCIAL BLDG.....SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

W. M. ALEXANDER.....President and Director  
H. A. BALDWIN.....1st Vice-President and Director  
J. WATERHOUSE.....2nd Vice-President and Director  
W. O. SMITH.....3rd Vice-President and Director  
C. R. HEMENWAY.....Treasurer and Director  
J. P. COOKE.....Secretary and Director  
F. F. BALDWIN.....Director  
A. L. CASTLE.....Director  
E. R. ADAMS.....Director

## Sugar Factors Commission Merchants and Insurance Agents

### AGENTS FOR

Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. Kahuku Plantation Company  
Maui Agricultural Co., Ltd. Kauai Fruit & Land Co., Ltd.  
Hawaiian Sugar Company Kauai Railway Co., Ltd.  
McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd. Kahului Railroad Company  
Honolua Ranch

### Insurance Companies Represented

The Home Insurance Company, New York  
Globe Indemnity Company  
The Commonwealth Company, New York  
Springfield Fire & Marine Insurance Co.  
New Zealand Insurance Co., Ltd.  
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.  
Newark Fire Insurance Company  
American Alliance Insurance Association  
Switzerland Marine Insurance Co., Ltd.

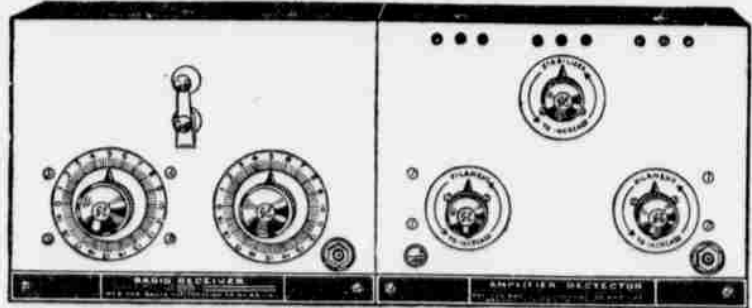
THE BALDWIN BANK, LTD., KAHULUI  
Our Maui Agents for Insurance

# RADIO

## Enters the Home

Complete Sets Furnished and Installed

Listen in and hear the concerts and daily entertainments each noon and evening that are broadcast from Honolulu



Sizes For the Home and Sizes for the Concert Hall  
A Never Ending Source of Enjoyment for  
Every Member of the Family

This is the Type Best Adapted for Maui

Put out by the Radio Corporation of America

# Maui Electric Co., Ltd.

Representing the Mutual Telephone Wireless Department